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PHILLIES OUTFIELD OPTIONS {page 22}

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local

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Philadelphia's murder total through last night, the 10th year in a row the city's surpassed the lamentable milestone of 300. Five people, including a 5-year-old, were killed over weekend in widespread violence. {page 06}

films

Liotta: The perks of being a wiseguy

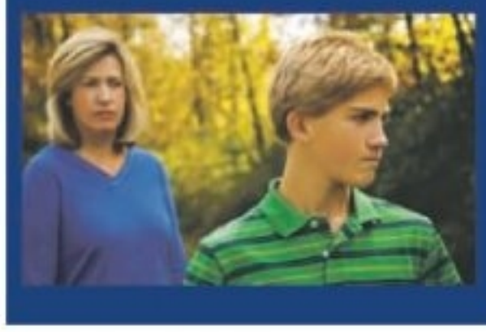
The 'Goodfellas' star is back in the mob for 'Killing Them Softly' {page 14}

That's what some residents say in South Philly, where three of six casino applicants want to develop Those proposals all along Packer Avenue north of stadiums {page 02}

No room for more games in South Philly

Millions already visit three stadiums home to four professional teams and a large entertainment complex each year.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO



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1

In the news

$261M

FEMA-approved federal assistance to New Jersey and its residents, according to new figures. The state of New York and its residents have been approved for $703 million. The Insurance Information Institute estimates claims could top $18 billion, excluding National Flood Insurance Program money, for which there are no estimates yet. METRO

Quoted

"I'm still the exact same person, and I'm still a Republican."

PENNSYLVANIA STATE REP. MIKE FLECK, WHO ON SATURDAY CAME OUT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HUNTINGDON DAILY NEWS, MAKING HIM THE STATE'S FIRST OPENLY GAY LAWMAKER AND THE ONLY OPENLY GAY SITTING REPUBLICAN LEGISLATOR IN THE COUNTRY

In the news

Slim spread in NJ poll on sports betting

NEW JERSEY. New Jersey residents are split on their support for the legalization of sports gambling in the state, according to a Seton Hall Sports Poll.

The poll found 47 percent of those surveyed were opposed to legalized sports gambling, 44 percent were in favor and 10 percent were undecided. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.8 percent.

In mid-October, the state's Division of Gaming Enforcement adopted regulations that would allow casinos and racetracks to apply for licenses to provide sports wagering starting Jan. 9, 2013, with the applications costing $50,000.

"Despite the potential for the state raising needed revenues through legalized gambling, especially after superstorm Sandy, opinions on this issue remain split," Rick Gentile, director of the poll, said yesterday. "This is possibly due to the strong resistance by the sports leagues." METRO

Paulsboro disaster evacs until next week

NEW JERSEY. The evacuation of more than 100 residents has been extended until at least next Saturday after a Paulsboro bridge collapse on Friday caused a freight train to derail and one of its tankers containing vinyl chloride to rupture, filling the air with hazardous gas.

Officials have approved a plan to remove the rest of the chemicals from the tanker, one of four rail cars to plunge into the Mantua Creek.

"There are other vinyl chloride containers and we still need to remove those type of containers, so there is still a potential for releases," Coast Guard Capt. Todd Weimers said. "But we are taking all precautions to ensure that everybody remains safe." METRO

Casino hopefuls think more games necessary

Already home to city's four professional sports franchises, developers also think it's ripe for gambling Residents think area could be overrun

Imagine 70,000 fans at Lincoln Financial Field and Citizens Bank Park on a game day, plus hundreds of people at entertainment complex Xfinity Live!

How about you then toss in a casino with 2,000 slots and more than 100 table games?

Some South Philadelphia residents claim a casino would create traffic and parking nightmares at peak times, but not so, according to three of the six applicants for the city's second casino license.

Three separate groups who have proposed a casino and resort on Packer Avenue near the South Philadelphia Sports Complex said the traffic impact would be mitigated by their proximity of Interstates 76 and 95 and that onsite parking and other parking facilities would offset the increase in cars, according to local impact studies from the groups, released last week by the state Gaming Control Board.

Some residents argue that the area cannot support a second casino.

"You got one in Chester, you got one on Shackamaxon [in Fishtown]. What are we doing here?" questioned South Philadelphia resident Sam Paranzino. "How many casinos do we need to fringe on our seniors? Enough is enough."

Former city councilman Jimmy Tayoun, who is editor of the Philadelphia Public Record, insists a casino would mean jobs for residents and more money for community organizations in the area.

"All the arguments have been wiped out, so South Philadelphians, being pragmatic, realize this means more jobs," he said.

REKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson, whose district includes the three Packer Avenue sites, "is willing to listen to residents and he's aware of resident concerns," his spokesperson said.

Considering city-owned slots

Johnson and Councilman Jim Kenney are expected to introduce a resolution this week to hold public hearings on the legality of a city-owned casino, proposed by U.S. Rep. Bob Brady.

Brady and Hollywood Casino are working on an agreement that would allow the city or a designated nonprofit to own two-thirds that would go towards the underfunded municipal pension fund and the School District of Philadelphia. The Nutter administration has claimed the proposed agreement by Hollywood Casino to make the city a two-thirds owner would violate state law and open the city up to legal challenges.

Philadelphia would be the first municipality in Pennsylvania to have stake in a casino.

SOLOMON D. LEACH
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Getting in on the action

The state Gaming Control Board released local impact plans for each of the six casino applicants last week. The board is expected to host a series of public meetings to receive testimony on the applications. It could take up to a year before a final decision is made.

To view the impact reports, visit www.gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov and click on Philadelphia Casino Applicants Information.

Here's a look at the three casino applicants who want to build in South Philadelphia:

- A group called **PHL Local Gaming** proposed a site on **Front Street near Packer Avenue in South Philadelphia.** The group is headed up by produce businessman Joseph Procacci, according to CBS Philly. It did not submit a local impact report to the city on time, but the gaming board has not said what impact that would have on applications.

- **Penn National Gaming,** which owns Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course outside of Harrisburg, said it may add the city as a partner at the site of the **former Food Distribution Center on Packer Avenue** or at a location it controls further west on Packer. The group has been in discussions with U.S. Rep. Bob Brady, who championed the idea of a city-owned casino, state Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams and City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson. By law, Penn National can only have one-third ownership in a second Pennsylvania casino.
- **Stadium Casino,** a partnership between the owner of Parx Casino and The Cordish Co., has plans for a **Live! Hotel and Casino** at the site of the Holiday Inn on Packer Avenue in South Philadelphia.
- The non-South Philly casino proposals are: **Developer Bart Blatstein's** $700 million resort and casino complex proposal on **North Broad Street** at the site of the former Inquirer/Daily News building; **Steve Wynn's** proposed project along the **Delaware River on North Beach Street in Fishtown;** and a group called **Market East Associates** wants to build a casino at **Eighth and Market** streets on Market East.
- The gaming board is expected to review the applications and hold a series of public hearings before making its final decision.

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In the news

Philly officer's murder leads to parole firings

HARRISBURG. Three parole board employees were fired following a probe into the death of Philadelphia police officer Moses Walker Jr. in August, officials said.

Walker, a 19-year veteran of the force, was off-duty when he was gunned down during a robbery in North Philadelphia. One of the men charged, Rafael Jones, was supposed to be on house arrest at the time of the shooting and had violated a condition of his probation days earlier. A review by the state Board of Probation and Parole concluded that three employees involved in Jones' supervision violated procedure.

"These employees were terminated due to violations of board procedures, the board's Code of Conduct, and shortcomings in the manner in which Jones was supervised," board chairman Michael Potteiger said in a statement.

The board declined to provide further details, including the specific violations or the positions of the terminated employees.

Potteiger also called for a review of the agency's internal investigation process, claiming the Walker inquiry took too long to complete. METRO/SDL

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Opinion

JOHN BOLARIS

BOLARIS VISION

MEDIA DARLING, THEN A SOCIAL MEDIA MESS

Social media should come with explicit warning that, upon use, one's quality of live may take a nosedive

Welcome to the world of social media — Twitter, Facebook, e-mail, LinkedIn and so forth, along with the endless stream of information, news, sports, politics, gossip and the new wave of instantaneous information. We should thank the tech gurus of this world for such a plethora of information, right?

You would think. However, there should be a big warning attached to the use of social media: "The use and abuse of this hotline to the world could be dangerous to one's mental health and well-being, and, in some cases, lead to meltdowns, self-destruction, lawsuits, loss of employment and a decline in overall quality of life."

Quoted

So my advice for you who have still not yet ventured headfirst into the world of social media ... is to let the haters hate, let the lovers love, be strong, stay cool and be true to yourself. Take control of things that only you can control.

If you have been linked to the world of social media, I can almost guarantee you have taken a personal hit. Most of us use this line of communication for what it was intended: information, connections with friends and a pipeline to the world. Unfortunately, it also serves as a vehicle for social media warfare. There are zero checks and balances, tons of personal attacks, inaccurate or unconfirmed news. It can ruin your marriage, destroy your image and, in some cases, wreck your life.

The haters or cowards who hide behind the cloak of anonymity love to throw the poisonous venom. I suppose, in reality, this is the social melting pot of America. As my dad would say to me, "Get tough, cream puff. It's a tough world out there, and only the strong survive." God bless his soul — he was correct.

So my advice for you who have still not yet ventured headfirst into the world of social media — as well as those of you who are in full throttle — is to let the haters hate, let the lovers love, be strong, stay cool and be true to yourself. Take control of things that only you can control.

It's a tough world out there and nobody likes a "cream puff."

*— **John Bolaris**, one of Philly's best-known news personalities, will appear every Monday. He'll give advice on life, weather and any topic in between. So let's start the dialogue. E-mail John at letters@metro.us.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

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Guns, murder now everywhere in Philly

Five more murders brings city past saddening total Tenth year in row for 300-plus slayings in city limits Newest victim was woman driving in SUV

Millie Greenwich, 73, who recently left the Allegheny West section of North Philadelphia after first moving there in 1963, was dismayed to learn yesterday that a woman had been shot and killed steps from the school where Greenwich sent her children.

But she was not surprised.

"It's a different world; people just don't care about other people," she said. Five people were murdered this weekend, three of them within an hour early Sunday. The city sailed past 300 homicides, with the body count up to 305 at press time.

"When my kids grew up, they went to this school," Greenwich gestured to John G. Whittier Elementary at 27th Street and Indiana Avenue, where a 45-year-old woman crashed her SUV after being shot multiple times behind the wheel early Sunday.

Quoted

"These kids don't have jobs, they don't have money, but they have guns."
GREENWICH

305
Body count at press time

"The playgrounds, every summer there was something going on with someone to watch them. There were more things to do. Now, it's just kids having kids and these guns — they're everywhere."

The woman died at Temple University Hospital shortly before 3:30 a.m.

Two other victims were shot and killed within an hour Sunday morning. Investigators said 20-year-old Victor Rodriguez was shot in the head following an argument on the 300 block of South 52nd Street.

The alleged shooter was arrested by an off-duty Chester City police officer.

A 35-year-old man was shot in the neck on the 1600 block of Hunting Park Avenue around 3:40 a.m. No arrests have been made in his death, or that of the 45-year-old woman.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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▶ A woman's SUV crashed into the school at 27th Street and Indiana Avenue yesterday morning after she was shot dead.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

More deaths

Five people were murdered this weekend, bringing the homicide tally to 305 — up from 303 in 2011 and a more than 8 percent jump from the 282 victims killed on that date in both 2009 and 2010.

Police on Saturday arrested 23-year-old Lashay Patterson and live-in boyfriend Christian Patrick, 25, for the death of Patterson's 5-year-old son, Dashawn Harris. Harris died shortly before 1:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Investigators said that his body was burned and bruised. Patterson and Patrick have been charged with conspiracy and murder.

A 17-year-old was fatally shot in the head on the 2000 block of South Croskey Street in the Girard Park section of South Philly shortly before 11 p.m. Saturday. His identity has not yet been released.

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Apple's Cue seeks overhaul of maps amid duel with Google

Apple Inc.'s Eddy Cue, who took charge of map software last month, is racing to turn around the troubled service, firing a senior manager and urging partners to improve data amid an escalating rivalry with Google Inc.

Cue, 48, senior vice president overseeing Apple's online services, pushed out maps supervisor Richard Williamson in a management shakeup soon after taking over the program, said people familiar with the situation, who asked not to be named because the information isn't public. Cue is seeking advice from outside map-technology experts and prodding maps provider TomTom NV to fix landmark and navigation data it shares with Apple.

Apple is under pressure to remedy mapping software widely faulted for unreliable landmark searches, routes that get users lost and a lack of public-transit directions. Building confidence in the tools is crucial as Google prepares its own downloadable mapping application for the iPhone and iPad, threatening to lure users and ad dollars away from Apple.

"Maps are a mission-critical application, and consumers have to trust that what they are seeing is correct," said Sarah Rotman Epps, an analyst at Forrester Research. "Apple will have to work really hard to re-earn that trust."

The bungled introduction of the new mapping features also contributed to the ouster of mobile-software chief Scott Forstall, whose departure was announced in October.

BLOOMBERG

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Google has built its businesses around services such as search, e-mail and mapping, then selling advertising around that.

Maps haven't slowed sales

While flaws in Apple's map program haven't dented sales of the iPhone 5, which was introduced in September, the shortcomings were an unusual public misfire that forced Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook to apologize to customers.

A rare stumble

A critical mistake for Apple was saying before the mapping product was released that it would be one of the best services on the market, said Noah Elkin, an analyst at researcher EMarketer Inc.

News in brief

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Parking in Hong Kong

Hong Kong parking costs rise as cash moves from homes

HONK KONG. Investors reacting to the Hong Kong government's campaign to curb home buying in the world's most expensive market are shifting money into parking spaces, pushing up prices that in high-end neighborhoods can match the cost of two U.S. homes.

The average price of a previously owned parking spot in residential complexes rose 6.7 percent to HK$640,000 ($82,600) in the third quarter, the second highest on record, from the prior three months, according to Centaline Property Agency Ltd. A space in the exclusive Repulse Bay area sold in May for HK$3 million ($387,000), the most for a single transaction and more than double the median U.S. home price, according to CarparkHK.com, a website that tallies parking-spot information. BLOOMBERG

Tech-fueled job boom spreads beyond the nerds

SAN FRANCISCO. Nerds are no longer the only ones benefiting from the innovation boom.

Having left the heavy-lifting to technology companies until early this year, San Francisco's non-tech employers are playing a growing role in the city's labor recovery. Positions in everything from retail to construction to hospitality now comprise about 75 percent of the city's job growth, helping the Northern Californian hub add jobs at among the fastest rates in the nation and reduce its unemployment rate to 6.5 percent. BLOOMBERG

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Opinion

JUSTIN DOWD
WINNER OF METRO'S RACE TO SPACE

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TRUE STORY OF DARKNESS

Darkness is an illusion produced by the mind. Your eyes detect a sliver of light shining in the surrounding world, like Alice viewing Wonderland through a keyhole. Radio- and microwaves are light with an invisible frequency, just as many sounds resonate too high or low for human ears to detect. If you could see all light, darkness would disappear.

Let's say you can see the whole spectrum. Radio towers become visible like beacons outside normally dark rooms, streaming through solid walls like glass. Cell phones flash through buildings everywhere there are people, beaming and catching conversations encoded in light.

The Milky Way becomes a thin inferno streaking across the sky day and night, each spark a star. Oceans of gas and dust in space absorb most visible light streaming from the galaxy's core, like overcast skies hiding the sun. Radio waves pass through intergalactic dust, revealing light from more than a hundred billion stars in a dense strip along the galaxy disk.

The term "Big Bang" is often used to describe the massive release of energy around 14 billion years ago, which provided all matter for the universe as we know it. Whether the bang erupted from a tiny point, higher dimensions colliding or something else, you are made of that energy. So in a way you were present at the Big Bang.

Quoted

"The term 'Big Bang' is often used to describe the massive release of energy around 14 billion years ago, which provided all matter for the universe as we know it. Whether the bang erupted from a tiny point, higher dimensions colliding or something else, you are made of that energy."

The best evidence for something banging is heat leftover in microwaves everywhere in the vacuum of space. Evidence for the theory was discovered accidentally. In 1964 two New Jersey scientists couldn't identify the source of static in their radio telescope. They even evicted pigeons and scraped droppings from the dish, while the pesky signal was from the birth of the universe itself. If you could see microwaves, the night sky would glow in every direction from the Big Bang, like embers from a fire.

Darkness doesn't really exist, even in the widest gaps between galaxies. After all, eyes only detect light while you see with your mind. To watch animation bring this idea to life and discover more mind-blowing truths, search "race to space" on Metro's website, **www.metro.us/weirdscience**

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Log on

Justin has produced a chalkanimation video to accompany this column. View it at **www.metro.us/weirdscience**

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1 Log on to **www.metro.us** and look for the Metro Magic logo at the top left.

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Suicide bombers attack US base in Afghanistan

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Some Afghans doubt government security forces will be able to defend against any Taliban attempts to seize power again after foreign troops withdraw.

Suicide attackers detonated bombs and fired rockets outside a major U.S. base in Afghanistan yesterday, killing five people in a brazen operation that highlighted the country's security challenges ahead of the 2014 NATO combat troop pullout.

Local police officials said bodies in Afghan police and military uniforms were scattered around the entrance of the airfield in the eastern city of Jalalabad after a two-hour battle. A Taliban spokesman said the militant group had launched the 6 a.m. assault.

The Taliban, who have been fighting U.S.-led NATO and Afghan forces for more than a decade, sometimes dress in uniforms for attacks.

Taliban text

In a text message, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said: "This morning at 6 a.m. a number of our devotees attacked the major U.S. Base in Jalalabad city and so far have brought heavy casualties to the enemy."

Two suicide bombers died after blowing themselves up in cars, said Nasir Ahmad Safi, a spokesman for the provincial government.

Seven other bombers were killed in the a gun battle with Afghan and coalition forces. Three Afghan soldiers and two civilians also died, said Safi.

U.S. helicopters circled overhead.

Several coalition troops were wounded, said Major Martyn Crighton, a spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force.

The United States and Afghan government are scrambling to stabilize Afghanistan before most NATO combat troops withdraw at the end of 2014 and hand over security to Afghan forces.

President Hamid Karzai's government say Afghan security forces have made good progress.

Afghanistan's defense ministry spokesman said there were rocket attacks at the Jalalabad base followed by suicide bombings. **REUTERS**

News in brief

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Windows 8

Microsoft said to speed Windows upgrades to yearly

SEATTLE. Microsoft Corp. plans to overhaul how it develops the flagship Windows operating system in a strategic shift aimed at keeping pace with nimbler rivals Apple Inc. and Google Inc., people familiar with the matter said.

Microsoft aims to upgrade the software more frequently, about once a year, rather than every two or three years as it's done in the past, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the product plans are private. The company plans to unveil the first of these updates in 2013, one of the people said. **BLOOMBERG**

Geithner predicts Republicans will allow higher taxes

WASHINGTON. U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner pressed Republicans to offer a plan to increase revenues and cut government spending and predicted they would agree to raise tax rates on the wealthiest to secure a deal by year-end to avoid the "fiscal cliff."

In a blitz of appearances on five Sunday morning talk shows, Geithner insisted that tax rates on the richest needed to go up in order to reach a deal, a step Republicans have so far resisted, and he dismissed much of the contentious rhetoric from last week as "political theater." **REUTERS**

▶ Geitner

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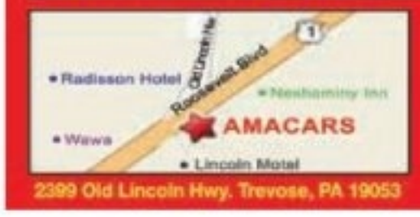

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

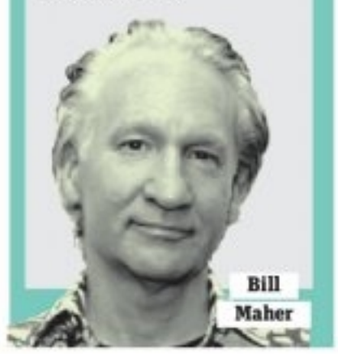
Today, Russell Brand is planning to bring down the house, Kristin Chenoweth isn't feeling too great, Bill Maher is feeling festive and Kevin Nealon has some environmental concerns.

@rustyrockets
On my way to #PerthArena, first comic to play there. And last - the finale involves clumsy pyrotechnics.

@KChenoweth
I think im tryin to get the flu. But i wont let it happen.

@billmaher
Dec. 1 is kind of a depressing day - into the last month now...another year shot, another year closer to death. Happy Holidays everybody!

@kevin_nealon
Conundrum Question: What if global warming was responsible for no earthquakes lately in California?



Bill Maher

Hot. Shot

▶ Twain feels like a woman — and still looks like a hot one.

DENISE TRUSCELLO/WIREIMAGE

Shania Twain takes on Vegas

Move over, J.Lo: Shania Twain can also rock a catsuit while performing — and she's 47! The singer kicked off a two-year residency at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas on Saturday.

Diamonds are a dating guru's best present

Oh, the beauty of dating around the holidays. You go from being asked why you don't have a boyfriend/girlfriend to, when you do finally have someone you could fathom bringing home, stressing out about introducing your current sex buddy to your parents without resorting to pharmaceuticals.

So you don't overdose on Xanax, we brought in a professional: "Millionaire Matchmaker" **Patti Stanger**, who we caught up with at a tasting of TY KU in New York City.

"First of all, the person who comes should bring a gift to the parents," Stanger instructs. "That sets the tone. Find out what [your partner's parents] like. Wine? Chocolate? The second thing is telling your parents a little bit about the person's interests and likes, so they have a hot button to push," she notes. "Tell the same thing to your mate, so they can get into a conversation. Once that's broken in, they'll be fine."

Feeling better? Good. Now onto the next dilemma: What should you give as a gift? If you're on a budget, don't look to Stanger for guidance — they call her the "Millionaire Matchmaker" for a reason. When we asked what was the best holiday gift she ever received, she didn't miss a beat: "Jewelry and diamonds. Diamonds are the best."

▶ Let Stanger help you through the holidays.

Paging Gloria Steinem?

Stanger is getting nervous about the reversal of modern gender roles. "I wonder why men are getting more passive and we're getting stronger," she ponders about the current state of the sexes. "There are more [women] in college, we're making more money and now men are getting wimpy. Soon they're going to morph into girls. And then there will be nobody [else] but our vibrators. Seriously."

— With reporting by Olivia Morrow

Talking points

Biel has problems with the 'H' word

Jessica Biel is adjusting to married life, as weird as it may seem to her just over a month after tying the knot with **Justin Timberlake**. "It's weird because it feels like almost nothing has changed, yet something that you can't really describe — or something that isn't tangible — has changed," she tells **Ellen DeGeneres** in an interview. "I think the weirdest and kind of most wonderful thing is that word, 'That's my husband.' That's the word. And every time I say it, I go really Southern with it. It's weird."

▶ The happy couple

Berry and Aubry reach an agreement

After a lengthy custody battle that came to a head with a bloody Thanksgiving brawl between **Gabriel Aubry** and **Olivier Martinez**, **Halle Berry** and ex-boyfriend Aubry have reportedly reached a custody agreement over their 4-year-old daughter **Nahla** — though details are hard to come by. "The parties have reached an amicable agreement. There will be no further statements regarding this matter," Berry's lawyer says in a statement to People magazine.

Lohan is so getting sued

Lindsay Lohan's recent dust-up at a New York nightclub during which she allegedly punched another woman — and was arrested for it — will likely be haunting her for some time. According to E! News, **Tiffany Mitchell** — the professional palm reader reportedly on the receiving end of Lohan's blows — met late last week with high-profile lawyer **Gloria Allred**. Lohan was arrested on a count of third-degree misdemeanor assault following the incident.

Ke$ha casts her eyes on Bieber

While **Justin Bieber** appears to be patching things up with **Selena Gomez**, he can take comfort that he'd have other options if it didn't work out. When asked by Rolling Stone if she'd be interested in getting intimate with Bieber, **Ke$ha** said yes before asking, "Wait, is he even legal? Could I go to jail for this?" Once assured that Bieber is of age, she added, "OK then, I would. We could go out and buy lottery tickets, vote, play putt-putt golf. All the things that are legal at the age of 18."

Highlights from Saturday's Jingle Ball

The first half of Jingle Ball, the annual concert by KIIS-FM in Los Angeles, was held on Saturday. The second half, held tonight, features Justin Bieber, Ke$ha, Flo Rida, Psy and more.

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▶ Taylor Swift

▶ Ellie Goulding

Will.i.am

▶ Ryan Tedder of OneRepublic

▶ The Jonas Brothers

James Valentine of Maroon 5

▶ Ne-Yo

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'Twilight' beats Bond three weeks in a row

New release and Brad Pitt vehicle 'Killing Them Softly' barely registers, landing in seventh place

Box office

The "Twilight" teen vampire movie shined again at U.S. and Canadian box offices, earning $17.4 million and its third consecutive No. 1 ranking as James Bond held strong and Brad Pitt's new movie struggled.

"Twilight" finale "Breaking Dawn - Part 2" finished just ahead of "Skyfall," the 23rd film in the Bond franchise about British superspy 007. "Skyfall" rang up sales of $17 million domestically from Friday through Sunday.

"Breaking Dawn - Part 2" has pulled in $254.6 million since its release while "Skyfall" has grossed $246 million, putting both among the top films of the year.

Steven Spielberg's historical drama "Lincoln," starring Daniel Day-Lewis, took third place for the weekend with $13.5 million. Brad Pitt's new movie, the small-budget gangster film "Killing Them Softly," grossed $7 million and landed in seventh place. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Taylor Lautner, Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson star in "Breaking Dawn - Part 2."

Top 5 films

1. **"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2":** $17.4 million
2. **"Skyfall":** $17 million
3. **"Lincoln":** $13.5 million
4. **"Rise of the Guardians":** $13.4 million
5. **"Life of Pi":** $12.2 million

TV watch list

'Blake Shelton's Not-So-Family Christmas'

SPECIAL. Country singer/"The Voice" troublemaker Blake Shelton celebrates an unconventional Christmas with a few of his famous friends, including wife Miranda Lambert, Kelly Clarkson, Christina Aguilera and Jay Leno. **10 p.m., NBC**

'Castle'

DRAMA. Castle and Beckett's first Christmas together is spoiled by a Santa who drops dead. Nothing a kiss under the mistletoe can't fix, we think. **10 p.m., ABC**

'90210'

DRAMA. The 90210-ers celebrate 100 episodes with a high school reunion at West Beverly — and a party at the Playboy Mansion. Because hey, why not? **8 p.m., The CW**

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Forever heavy

Psychedelic outfit Black Moth Super Rainbow keep their distance with a poppy new offering, 'Cobra Juicy' It's a meaner album, says singer Tom Fec

Tom Fec, otherwise known as Tobacco, otherwise known (with other band members) as Black Moth Super Rainbow, is something of a man of mystery. Sequestered in the woods outside of Pittsburgh, Fec sings only through the electronic machinations of a vocoder, so it's rare when a journalist gets to hear his absent-minded meanderings without a filter.

"I have a lot of limitations because I can't sing," he explains. "I can pretty much get anything I want out of the vocoder, so that's why I go with it."

Masks are also a major theme for this enigmatic band, who just released their fifth full-length album. Like most of the BMSR albums before it, the cover art for "Cobra Juicy" features a haunting face. The hollow eyes of it seem to echo the distance Fec puts between himself and the fans of his work, and it gives the psychedelic trash-rock he makes that much more effectively creepy.

"I grew up on Garbage Pail Kids and Mad Balls and all that kind of s—," Fec says. "I was always drawn to this big colorful kind of ugly, but well-designed faces and I think that's what it'll always be. I think [the cover art] is as important as the music. I think it frames it all, so I have to make it for every album."

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▶ The ever enigmatic Black Moth Super Rainbow never appear sans masks in promo pictures.

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The 'Juicy' sound

As for the sound of the new album, Fec says: "It's about as poppy as I thought we'd ever do."

But he also adds that fans can expect to hear a sharper edge in the lyrics. The album is the first of the band's to feature a parental advisory sticker, after all.

"It's a more fun album. It's a little more like me, I guess. It's a little meaner," he says. "It's not nice because I always thought of Black Moths as my baby and I've always curated the way I release it to the public in a nice way. At the end of the day, it's not totally who I am."

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THE WISEGUY

Ray Liotta can't help it if he makes the perfect mobster Why new thriller 'Killing Them Softly' made him an offer he couldn't refuse

Ray Liotta knows how to give a hell of a fake beating. He's also good at taking one, as he does in his latest film — mobster drama "Killing Them Softly." Though fans are still asking him to say lines from his iconic role in 1994's "Goodfellas," the New Jersey native doesn't mind slipping back into the role of a gangster for Andrew Dominik's new film — especially since, as he says, he's playing a good one this time around.

In this film, the mob underworld serves a microcosm for the country as a whole. So many people felt victimized by the 2008 financial crisis, which is when this film is set. The mobsters who get ripped off in the card game represent the general public. What do you think is the message of that?

Just that everybody needs money. Everybody got hit. I'm not sure, but I guess it happens to all walks of life. You don't think of it as maybe hurting people who do illegal things, but it stands to reason that I guess would be across the board — good guys and bad guys.

It's refreshing how the film places the mob in the context of the crisis. Is that why you wanted the role?

That was in the book. ... But that's not why I did it. I did it more just because it was a really interesting story and it was nice to play somebody who was the victim as opposed to the aggressor. It was different in terms of that bad guys that I've played.

We've gotten such an education on mob culture with "The Sopranos" and "Goodfellas." It's hard to believe that there are still new stories to tell about it.

There's a lot of stories. Just the same with the superhero stuff — it's just the same kind of story with different outfits.

You take such a beating in this movie. Have you ever been injured when doing any of these kinds of scenes?

No. It hurts more when you're the guy who's doing the beating. The biggest thing about that is trusting the people that you're working with. ... There's always that fear that maybe you'll get hit. The biggest thing is to not anticipate what you know is coming and the most frustrating thing about it is, I know I could have beaten those two guys up who do the beating on me [in this movie].

Have you ever stepped back to appreciate a good beating you've done?

▶ Ray Liotta plays mobster Markie Trattman in "Killing Them Softly."

Mobsters & superheroes

We've gotten such an education on mob culture with "The Sopranos" and "Goodfellas." It's hard to believe that there are still new stories to tell about it.

There's a lot of stories. Just the same with the superhero stuff — it's just the same kind of story with different outfits.

What was the strangest mob role you've been asked to do?

I get to play cops — bad cops, some bad guys. ... I was asked to do "The Sopranos," but it wasn't the right time to do it. In the beginning of my career, I handled it very delicately in terms of limiting the bad guys. The irony of it all is I've never been in a fight in my whole life, yet they ask me to do these kinds of guys. I don't watch the monitors or playback or anything like that. I just trust the stunt coordinator or the DP [director of photography] or whoever's behind the camera. I know watching "Goodfellas" when I went after that guy that lives across the street from Karen, who Lorraine Bracco played — I knew that was a pretty severe beating. I could just tell from the way people reacted. I was really in the zone there. That poor guy.

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How to handle your haters

We've all got 'em, unfortunately • Recognize it's not about you • What else you can do to find some peace

At some point in our lives, we all have to deal with haters. Maybe someone is rude to you on the subway. Maybe you've got a negative person in your office. Or perhaps you receive negative messages on the Internet. Experiencing negativity from others can be a real drag, and it's very hard not to take this stuff personally. I often witness people get so caught up in the negativity of others that they get physically ill over it. Letting haters get you down is a huge waste of time and energy. To help you navigate these relationships, I've outlined three steps for handling the downers in your life.

Step 1: Understand that it's not about you

When people attack us, it's easy to assume that the attack has merit and means there's something wrong with us. I choose to have a different perspective — I like to have compassion for these folks. Let's face it: A happy person won't waste time being mean to others. Therefore, we must have a tremendous amount of compassion for these people. Anyone who wastes time and energy spreading negativity clearly needs more light in his or her life. Begin by simply reminding yourself that a happy person doesn't harm others. Let this realization help you have compassion for the haters.

Step 2: Drop the boxing gloves

Through my spiritual practice, I've come to understand that "insistence means investment." When we invest in the illusions of others by defending ourselves or fighting back, we only invest deeper into the craziness. Engaging in negativity creates more of it. Therefore, instead of fighting back or becoming defensive choose to release defensiveness and steer far away from creating more drama. Fighting back is like yelling at a barking dog. There's no good outcome. Instead, practice defenselessness and witness how much energy and time you save avoiding more drama.

Step 3: Forgive

Forgiveness helps us detach from the negative energy cord that ties us to our enemies. Energy is in everything. If we don't clean up our energy through forgiveness, we'll continue to carry negativity. In the case of handling these negative folks, it's imperative that you practice the F-word: Forgive. Steps one and two will prime you for forgiveness. Compassion will reconnect you to a sense of oneness and defenselessness, which will help you put down the boxing gloves and settle into a new perspective. The final step is to let go fully and forgive. In this step, you'll set the intention. Simply say, "I wish to forgive you and release you." Then let the forgiveness process take on a life of its own.

— Gabrielle Bernstein is the author of "Spirit Junkie."

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Zen in the City

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myjobs

Let your next job find you

Employers are hitting the Web in search of top talent How to stand out using social media profiles, a bit of branding and some strategic marketing

It wasn't long ago that job searching meant circling interesting opportunities in the Sunday newspaper or dropping off a résumé by hand to a receptionist.

Now, with social networking evolving so rapidly, even traditional online job boards are struggling to keep up with the fast-changing way employees are getting hired. Candidates are no longer the only ones actively searching for jobs — employers are now hunting on the Internet to find top talent, as well.

So how exactly do you get on their radar? Well, the answer is relatively simple: It's all about personal branding and online footprinting.

BRAND X PICTURES

▶ Bait your dream job with strategic online profiles.

Think of yourself as a brand and define your niche

Rather than focusing on what you want to do, focus on what you already do or have done that is relevant to your "dream job." Defining what you do will help employers determine whether or not you have the skills they are looking for. Also, remember to be clear and concise with your personal brand messaging; it should be apparent at first glance what it is that you do.

Treat yourself like a marketing campaign

This doesn't mean putting banner ads all over the Web to promote yourself, but you should be using social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to showcase your professional skills. Think about where your "target industry" hangs out and make sure you are present there as well.

LinkedIn, Twitter and even Facebook are gold mines when it comes to attracting attention from companies.

Complete your profiles and keep consistency between them

Without overloading your profiles with details of everything you have ever done, profiles should give more information than just the bare minimum.

Complete profiles will not only give employers more insight into your skill set than just a name or title, but they will also help you show up more frequently in search results. Consistencies between profiles will also help employers find you.

Be searchable by trade

Do your homework in your industry and know what all the keywords that surround your dream job are. Once you have determined which industry specific keywords are used, scatter them around all of your profiles. Don't change your title to something meaningless like Digital and Social Media Marketing Web 2.0 Internet Networker and Consultant, but do use keywords to improve your chances of showing up in search results.

SOPHIE BITFIELD FOR TalentEgg hatching graduate careers

Talentegg.com is a job board and online career resource for college students and recent graduates.

Professional profile 101

Before you run off and start creating or strengthening your online profiles, there are two things you should know:

1. It's important to remember that although fancy images, a bit of clever branding and search engine optimization work will almost certainly help employers navigate their way directly to your profiles, you should always be honest about your skills and experience. With so much information available on the Web, any lies or embellished truths will be exposed almost immediately.
2. Don't set up your profiles and leave them to work for you. If you are actively searching for employment, your digital footprint should complement your job hunt rather than replace it.

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A four-year degree isn't always the right answer

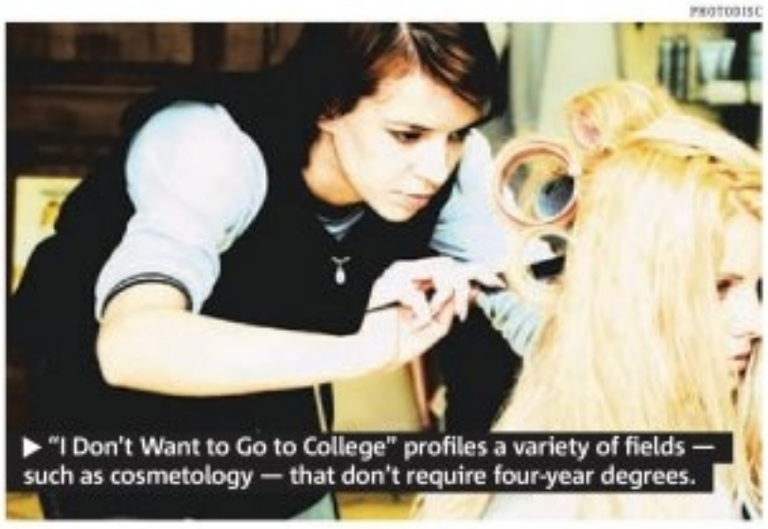
After publishing how-to books on paying for college, the American Library Association felt it was about time to create a guide for students looking to forgo what has become an American right of passage.

"I Don't Want to Go to College: Other Paths to Success" is a manual for those who know a four-year degree isn't right for them. In 200 pages, the book takes the reader step-by-step through the process of pursuing a rewarding career, beginning with skills and interests worksheets to help illuminate alternatives.

"Your parents, your family, your school: Everybody tells you to go to a four-year school and get that degree. But it's not for everyone," says the guidebook's author, Heather Z. Hutchins. "If your inclination doesn't run that way, then there's lots of other opportunities for you. When I started researching the book, I was really shocked at just how many alternatives there are to a four-year degree."

"Other Paths" profiles a wide range of careers, from pharmacy technician to hairstylist, and includes information about the specific training and certificates required for each of them.

PHOTODISC


▶ "I Don't Want to Go to College" profiles a variety of fields — such as cosmetology — that don't require four-year degrees.

"Your parents, your family, your school: Everybody tells you to go to a four-year school and get that degree. But it's not for everyone."
HUTCHINS

"I tried to be really meticulous about including every important detail on these jobs, so the reader can know in advance exactly what they want, and how to get it," says Hutchins. "I wanted to give people a resource on just about every aspect of the job search: how to give a good interview, prepare a professional resume, find an apprenticeship and ... apply for financial aid. There's plenty of learning going on outside of college campuses."

BRUCE WALSH

In the news

Holidays, Sandy make their mark on the job market

The damage wrought by Sandy probably extended to the job market in November as the superstorm forced businesses to close, upending the recent pick-up in U.S. hiring, economists projected a report this week will show.

Payrolls rose by 90,000 workers last month, the smallest gain since June, according to the median forecast of 71 economists surveyed by Bloomberg ahead of Labor Department figures to be released Dec. 7. Manufacturing and services grew at a slower pace, other reports may show.

Sandy, the largest Atlantic storm ever to hit the nation, left about 8 million homes and businesses without power for days after making landfall.

"The storm was certainly very disruptive, and the numbers will reflect that," says Scott Brown, chief economist at Raymond James & Associates Inc. in St. Petersburg, Fla. "The bigger picture is we're seeing measured progress in the labor market. Job growth in recent months has been somewhat better than people expected, but we've still got a lot of ground to make up."

On the brighter side, an early Thanksgiving may have provided a boost of about 75,000 to payrolls last month. Businesses stepping up hiring to cater to holiday shoppers include Macy's; the second-biggest U.S. department-store chain said it would add about 2,000 more seasonal workers than the 78,000 it hired last year. Toys R Us, the world's largest toy retailer, reported plans to employ 45,000 temporary staff, up 5,000 from the 2011 season.

"Although the economy continues to expand, we must grow faster if we are to put all of our jobless workers and idle businesses back to work," William Dudley, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, said in a speech last week.

Dudley is focusing on "unacceptably high" joblessness as he considers whether the Fed should stimulate the economy.

An improving labor market, rising home values and cheaper gasoline are boosting Americans' moods, another report on Dec. 7 may show. The Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan preliminary index of consumer sentiment in December probably held close to the prior month's five-year high, economists in the Bloomberg survey predicted.

BLOOMBERG

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Macy's is among retailers that have added more seasonal workers for this holiday season.

4.5M

Through October, the U.S. had recovered 4.5 million of the 8.8 million jobs lost as a result of the 18-month recession that ended in June 2009.

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Considering grad

Don't rush something with a price tag this steep How to apply to graduate school with style

Pay a visit: Visit the school you are applying to and connect with faculty and prospective supervisors.

Having that face time with a member of the selection committee or a prospective supervisor can go a long way in helping you to get into a program. Many programs will not admit a student unless they already have a faculty member who is willing to supervise his or her research.

If you take the time to learn who is out there and connect with him or her about your area of interest then you are halfway, at least, to getting in.

Do your research on research: Take time before you start the application process to reflect on what you would like to research while in grad school.

The most successful applicants are those who have a clear research interest — one that is innovative or takes a new approach to an old question. You need to know how you want to conduct your research, what resources you intend to use, what the burning question is that you want to address and why it is important. Of course, it is difficult at this point in time to know the answers to all of this — but the closer you can get, the better.

Take time to chat with your current or past professors and get their insights on your research. This is also the sort of thing that you can connect with prospective supervisors on. They can direct you to other resources that may be of use to

▶ You'll be spending a long time in grad school. Make sure you know what you want before hitting the books.

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You want them to be thinking of you positively when they write that letter — so the more leisurely and the more prepared they are, the better the letter will be. If they are rushed at the last minute, they may feel frustrated or stressed — and that will have a negative impact on your recommendation. Also, make sure you're on good terms with that professor: Often, students receive unflattering letters because they fail to ask whether the potential recommendation author would write a favorable letter.

you and your studies.

Have a mission statement: Prepare a statement of purpose that is personal, not cliched or filled with broad, sweeping statements and random flattery of the program to which you are applying.

Have your purpose figured out? Now explain who you are, what you want and why you want it from where you are applying.

Follow the department's directions to the letter. Rewrite, give drafts to your family and friends. Make it punchy, personal and — just as importantly — free of typos.

CLARE TATTERSALL FOR TalentEgg hatching graduate careers

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Application don'ts

Before you hit send, consider this:

- **Don't hand in an application that is disorganized or one that contains spelling or grammatical mistakes.** This will give the impression that you're not clear about your purpose or do not take the application seriously.
- **Scale back the flattery.** A number of admissions committee chairs have cited distaste for applications that include insincere flattery, such as praising the program in an obsequious manner. Other chairs added inappropriate name-dropping or blaming others for a poor academic record as potential kisses of death.

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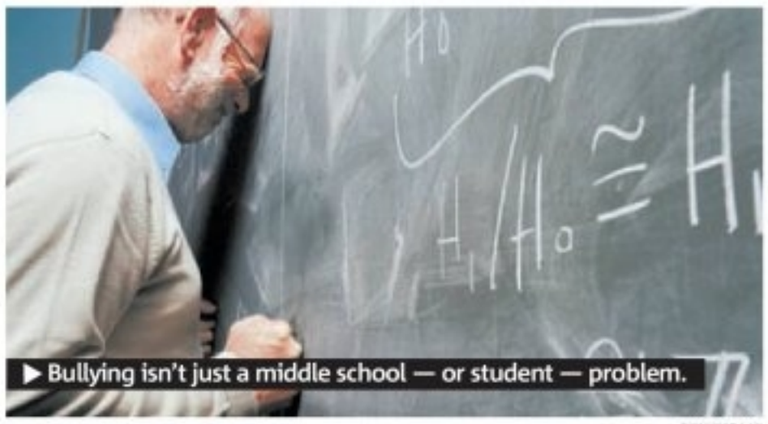
Bullying hits unsuspected classrooms

In 2007, Jaime Lester launched a study on workplace bullying at George Mason University. While there have been thousands of similar organizational studies over the years, this may have been the first to look specifically at the faculty of a university.

"Our end results were very confusing. If we had X percent of faculty bullied by other faculty, is that high compared to other colleges? We didn't know, because there is so little that's known about this," says Lester. "So I felt we needed a conversation starter. How can we frame this in such a way that we push forward more work on this topic?"



▶ Bullying isn't just a middle school — or student — problem.

THINKSTOCK

The result, "Workplace Bullying in Higher Education," will be released in December. The book features contributions from over a dozen bullying experts, including two of the nation's leading workplace aggression scholars: Joel H. Neuman of SUNY New Paltz, and Wayne State's Loraleigh Keashly.

But a college faculty is like no other set of co-workers, and this book makes an effort to walk through the practical and legal particularities of a college campus. While most colleges have created strong anti-bullying resources for students, the only recourse for faculty and staff is frequently to notify their human resources departments.

"Power dynamics are very different in higher education. If you look at the literature on organizations, generally, they say women are more likely to be bullied than men, and people in lower levels are more likely to be bullied than in higher levels," explains Lester. "But in higher education I think it's much more complicated. We have some evidence of students bullying faculty, staff bullying faculty and the other way around. It's a flatter power dynamic. That changes who is bullied and how often."

By the numbers

35%

A recent study by CareerBuilder found that up to 35 percent of employees have been bullied in the workplace.

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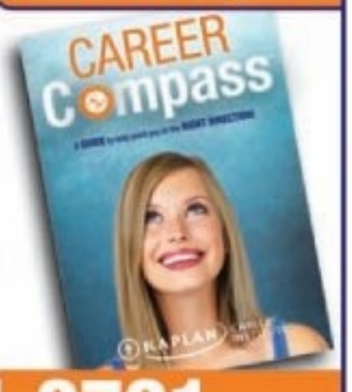

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Letters

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It's racism to accuse Jews of racism

RE: "HARMONY STARTS WITHIN THE FAMILY" (METRO, NOV. 30-DEC. 2) As a Jew of European background who was active for many years in the campaign to rescue Ethiopian Jews, I was appalled that Metro recently published a letter by Paul Hunter that was nothing but an ignorant, slanderous rant against what Hunter calls "European Jews."

Racism against European Jews is also racism, and if Hunter is really sincere about eradicating bigotry from the world, he should start with the ugly anti-Semitism that poisons his own soul.

I would also recommend that Metro readers touring Israel ask to visit Ethiopian Jewish communities so that they can see for themselves the miracle of rebirth in the Holy Land.

YEHUDA SHAPIRO, VIA E-MAIL

If the shoe fits, buy a lot more of them

RE: "PHOTO OF COP GIVING SHOES TO HOMELESS MAN GOES VIRAL" (METRO, NOV. 30-DEC. 2) The photo of the police officer kneeling and giving a pair of shoes to a homeless man in New York City just brought tears to my eyes.

Now this is what Christmas should be all about. Christmas is not about fighting in malls for meaningless gifts, it's not about drinking your head off, it's not about killing trees to hang decorations on them — but peace on Earth and good will.

RUTH MARTINEZ, VIA E-MAIL

Anti-Islam video just a cover-up for gov't conspiracy

RE: "IT ONLY TAKES A FEW BAD APPLES" (METRO, NOV. 28) Letter writer John Francis Fox is either gullible or hasn't heard the news.

The anti-Islam movie had nothing to do with Islamist revolting and killing four Americans. If you ever gone to YouTube and typed anti-Islam, you would see hundreds videos more offensive then this guy's movie.

The U.S. government used the movie as a cover-up. They were well aware that terrorist groups were going to attack U.S. embassies in the Middle East, and they didn't do anything about it.

If anything, John, you should be angry at the U.S. government for using this movie as an excuse to portray Muslims as savage people incapable of rational thought, because that is what world thought when they heard the news.

TAMARA PIZHADZE, VIA E-MAIL

How dare the gossip page poke fun at hefty celebs

RE: "JESSICA SIMPSON RAISES NICK LACHEY'S BABY COUNT BY ONE" (METRO, NOV. 29) I read your article and found to be extremely catty and mean. Calling Jessica Simpson gigantic was very mean. Someone in your position should be more careful with the words you use.

It's cruel, and I'm almost certain if you were to see her in person you wouldn't fix your mouth to say to her face what you wrote in that article. Shame on you.

COLLEEN, VIA E-MAIL

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
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Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** With the tremendous optimism you espouse, you should have little trouble awakening enthusiasm in others. Whatever it is you're doing, they'll want to be part of it.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Although you may not think you require any assistance from others, they might end up helping you get what you want. You'll realize how badly you needed help.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Most any group could benefit from your presence. You'll be a great catalyst, knowing exactly what needs doing and how to effectively go about doing it.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** A special target that you've been striving for could turn out to be much bigger than you initially thought. Once achieved, it will have many far-reaching effects.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** A friend who has been quite fortunate for you once before might be so for you again. Stick close to him or her, because this person is likely to be quite helpful.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** This could be one of those wonderful days when everything you touch generates additional income. Pay special attention to a side endeavor.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Lady Luck is likely to be involved in many of your endeavors, but she will probably shine most on a partnership arrangement.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Focus your efforts on making as much money as you can. If you do, it's likely that you will find a way to increase your earnings through a one-time source.

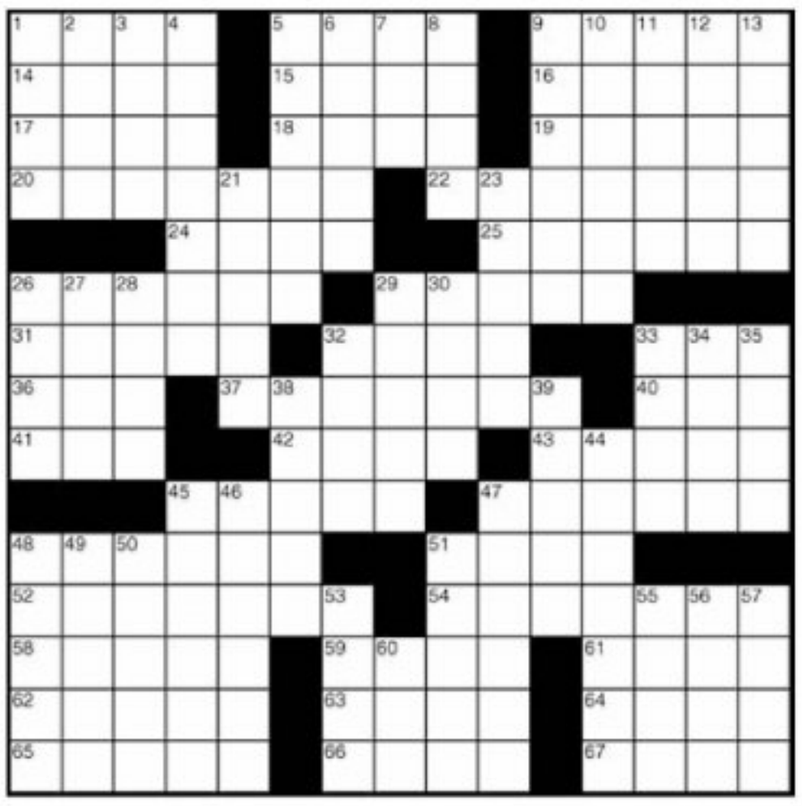
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Working in close tandem with others will prove to be quite lucky for you. However, the results will be even more impressive if you call the shots instead of letting another do so.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** This can be an especially rewarding day, mostly because you'll be able to successfully weld your inner desires to your external capabilities. Something great will come of it.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Something extraordinary could occur, which would put you in an extremely happy frame of mind. Whatever it is, it will be the type of event that will be worth celebrating.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Instead of diminishing or modifying your hopes and expectations, try to elevate them to new heights. You are far luckier than you may realize, so think big. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Percussion instrument
5 Turn white
9 Of the Vatican
14 Theory
15 Safe callers
16 Burro alternative
17 Equipment
18 Shade
19 Humerus neighbors
20 Naive
22 Prehistoric
24 Linen vestments
25 Cub Scout leaders
26 To no avail
29 Some dancers (hyph.)
31 Dwelling
32 Actor — Neeson
33 Join together
36 Grant approval
37 Wire-haired dog
40 Galena
41 NASA counterpart
42 Platinum records
43 Nozzle choice
45 Move smoothly
47 Impose taxes
48 Corkscrew
51 Sticky soil
52 Akhenaten, the "— Pharaoh"
54 Refuse to buy
58 Hold forth
59 Two fives for — —
61 Day fraction
62 Sheepfolds
63 Fourth planet
64 He wrote "Picnic"
65 Posed to propose
66 Just OK (hyph.)
67 Box



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1 Billion, in combos
2 German river
3 "Cool!"
4 Festoon of flowers
5 Saves (2 wds.)
6 Not quite right
7 RN assistant
8 Is, in Madrid
9 Spunky
10 Comrades in arms
11 Discussion group
12 Fridge maker
13 Holds up
21 Cherbourg shes
23 Supermodel — Campbell
26 Dell
27 Vigoda and Saperstein
28 Modicum
29 Please, in Vienna
30 Some vampires
32 Burglar's "key"
33 Made threadbare
34 Memorable decades
35 Pashas
38 Hot pepper
39 Dreaded assignment
44 Mind reader
45 Grimm maiden
46 Most current
47 Maria Conchita —
48 Stun
49 Madonna role
50 Burnt up
51 Truckers on the air
53 Valve lifters
55 Dame — Chaplin
56 Pulls gently
57 Beech or oak
60 Way of Lao-tzu

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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		9			8			1
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			9				2	
					7	5	6	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Center of attention in Phils lonely outfield

With Upton off market, team looks for options in center field ◗ Braves, Nationals both added new pieces last week ◗ Would Phils pursue Hamilton? ◗ We review free-agent crop

There are two ways to look at the one who got away. B.J. Upton would have added power, speed, an infusion of youth and the ability to play a solid center field for the Phillies.

But Upton, 28, has hit for a .242 average over the last three seasons. During that span, The former Ray has struck out at least 161 times each season.

"I wouldn't cry over not getting Upton," a NL executive said. "The Phillies already have enough guys, who don't hit for average and strike out a lot. Do you need another one, especially at that price?"

That price is $75.25 million over five years, which is what division rival Atlanta paid for Upton's services.

The Braves aren't the only division rival to add a starting center fielder from the American League. The Nationals traded for Denard Span, who also gives the NL East champs a bonafide lead-off hitter and an outstanding outfielder.

That cuts down the available capable center fielder list considerably. Angel Pagan, who had a strong bounce-back year for the World Series champion Giants is still out there as a free agent. And so is Josh Hamilton and his big bat.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Upton

Will the Phillies splurge to add Cliff Lee's favorite slugger? When Lee returned to Philadelphia after spending a portion of the 2010 season with Hamilton and the Rangers, a kid asked the lefty who was the best he ever played with.

"Josh Hamilton at 70-percent is better than anyone I've ever played with at 100-percent," Lee said.

After the ridiculous lack of support last season, it's not hard to figure who Lee would love to see in the Phillies' lineup. But Hamilton's personal issues and contract demands may make that addition difficult.

"You can always make a trade," the NL executive said.

Young, speedy center fielders, such as the Rockies' Dexter Fowler and the Angels' Peter Bourjos, could be had in a deal.

Don't be surprised if the Phillies speed it up and make a move to fill the void in center after their division rivals struck.

ED CONDRAN
sports@metro.us

1 Michael Bourn, .274, 42 steals

- **Pros:** Exceptional center fielder, a prototype lead-off hitter and great clubhouse guy. Looking for a team with some money to spend.
- **Cons:** Bats left-handed and strikes out too much. Lacks power. Represented by Scott Boras, who has a turbulent relationship with the Phillies (J.D. Drew, Ryan Madson). Wants a bigger deal than Upton in terms of years and cash.
- **Odds:** 20-percent. Phils and Boras aren't usually a good match, but what other team that needs a center fielder has the cash?

2 Josh Hamilton, .285, 43 HRs

- **Pros:** Elite hitter, productive game-changer. Provides crazy power, which the Phillies need.
- **Cons:** Bats left-handed and a better corner outfielder than a center fielder. Troubling past filled with substance and alcohol abuse. Wants a long-term deal.
- **Odds:** 25 percent. The word is that Hamilton will not get more than a three- or four-year deal due to his problems. If Texas passes, the door may be open for the Phillies. Ruben Amaro has a knack for scoring big-ticket items.

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3 Angel Pagan, .288, 56 RBIs

- **Pros:** Solid defensively. Coming off career season (.288/.338/.440). Has speed and extra-base power. Led NL with 15 triples and also had 38 doubles. Phillies won't lose 2013 first-round pick if they sign Pagan.
- **Cons:** Mediocre 2011 with the Mets. What Pagan will show up next season? He's 31. The Phillies have too many players on the wrong side of 30.
- **Odds:** 30-percent. Giants have a limited budget and Amaro has noted that he is aware of what Pagan can bring the Phillies.

4 Peter Bourjos (above) or Dexter Fowler

- **Pros:** Both are young (Bourjos, 25; Fowler, 26), fast and have very good gloves. Bourjos lost his job to Mike Trout. In 2011 he had 11 triples. Fowler hit. 300 and blasted 13 homers in 2012.
- **Cons:** Phillies will need to deal prospects. Will they have enough to make a trade? The Reds (who also need a center fielder) have more to offer in trade.
- **Odds:** 40-percent. Amaro has said that he wasn't that impressed with the outfield free agents and noted a trade could be the answer for the Phillies.

5 Shane Victorino, .255, 11 HRs

- **Pros:** Very good defensively and has speed to burn. Plus, Victorino loves it here. Shouldn't cost much since Vic is coming off his worst season. The Phillies might get the most bang for their buck with Victorino.
- **Cons:** Victorino hit poorly from the left side of the plate and made a number of bad decisions in the field and on the base paths last season and he is 32.
- **Odds:** 15-percent. Amaro gave the impression that he is ready to move on from the Victorino days. Shane could return if all else fails.

Luck leads Colts to win; Bears upset in overtime

As the playoffs near, the games become more meaningful and with that the action has certainly heated up. Week 13 featured some of the more intense, back-and-forth action of the season, including two of the early games going to overtime. Here is a rundown:

Seahawks 23, Bears 17 (OT)
The Seahawks finally got the signature road win they have been looking for in their overtime win at Chicago. Golden Tate's touchdown with 24 seconds left in regulation gave Seattle a 17-14 lead, but miraculously the Bears were able to get a Robbie Gould field goal as time expired. Seattle's Sidney Rice scored on the first possession of overtime.

Colts 35, Lions 33
Despite trailing 33-21 with just over two minutes remaining, the Colts scored 14 points in the final 2:39 to beat the Lions on the road. Andrew Luck led the Colts to the come-from-behind win throwing for 391 yards and four touchdowns. Indianapolis is 8-4.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Luck had four TDs, though he was picked three times.

Afternoon scores

Steelers 23, Ravens 20
Shaun Suisham kicked a game-winning 42-yarder with three seconds left to get an important division win.

Steelers 31, Ravens 23
The Broncos scored three touchdowns in the second quarter to turn a 10-7 deficit into a 28-10 blowout.

Bengals 20, Chargers 13
Cincinnati scored 10 points in the fourth quarter to keep pace with the Steelers at 7-5 for the final wild card spot.

Packers 23, Vikings 14
In an NFC North battle, the Packers were able to pull away from the Vikings at home to earn the win. Green Bay scored the final 13 points, led by Aaron Rodgers who threw for 286 yards and a score. Minnesota falls to 6-6 while Green Bay is 8-4.

Texans 24, Titans 10
In what could have been a trap game, with the Texans coming to New England next week, Houston rolled to a 14-point road win, despite only getting 38 yards rushing from Arian Foster. Matt Schuab passed for 207 yards and two touchdowns in the win.

Jets 7, Cardinals 6
Jeff Cumberland's touchdown catch early in the fourth quarter was the game-winning score for the Jets, but the big story was Mark Sanchez being replaced by Greg McElroy in the second half. McElroy was the one who threw the touchdown. Sanchez was just 10-of-21 (97 yards) while throwing three picks. RYAN HANNABLE

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McNutt trying to live out his NFL dream with Birds

Rookie receiver added to active roster ◗ Injuries present opportunity ◗ Healthy scratch against Dallas

When the Eagles first drafted Marvin McNutt, the organization believed he could develop into a real red-zone threat. At 6-foot-3, he was born to run the fade route.

There was a logjam at receiver, though. And the Eagles waived McNutt after training camp. Then, after clearing waivers, the Eagles signed McNutt to the practice squad.

"It was an easy decision because I wanted to obviously be a part of the team," McNutt said, when asked why he chose to return. "I went through all camp and knew the offense and wanted to just be a part of something here. It definitely hurt, but you keep fighting. These are the chances that you get if you keep continuing to work and never quit on your dream."

That dream became reality Friday, when McNutt was added to the 53-man roster. With injuries sweeping the locker room, the sixth-round pick out of Iowa is looking to make an impact in any way he can. While the Eagles chose not to dress him last night in Dallas, McNutt could very well see some playing time — most likely on special teams — before the season ends.

When a team is struggling as mightily as the Eagles, they tend to look toward the future. They'll want to find out if the kid can play. But McNutt, who turned some heads in training camp, isn't looking past the present.

Marvin's room

McNutt wasn't active for last night's Eagles-Cowboys game (which ended too late for this edition). Here's his measurables:

- **Size:** 6-foot-3
- **Weight:** 216 pounds
- **Drafted:** Sixth round (194)
- **Did you know?** He's Iowa's all-time leading receiver with 2,861 yards and 28 touchdowns on 170 receptions.

"My thing is to do whatever I can to help the team," McNutt said. "Whether it's being in for one play or if it's just even for moral support, but if they have me up in to play, my goal is to know what I'm doing and to do my job."

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

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Turner finally living up to hype

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Turner is thriving after the departures of Jodie Meeks and Andre Iguodala.

No. 2 overall pick making most of minutes ◗ Third-leading scorer, second-best rebounder for Sixers

There are only five players in the entire NBA averaging at least 14 points, seven rebounds and four assists. LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Joakim Noah, Marc Gasol and — wait for it — Evan Turner.

Yes, Evan Turner.

In his third season, the former No. 2 overall pick has become a plus-player and asset for the 10-7 Sixers. He's the unquestioned starting small forward, the team's second-best rebounder and third-leading scorer. In short, he's finally living up to expectations.

"I think the biggest thing is you have to pay your dues before you really break out," Turner said. "Sometimes you have to mess up before you start perfecting things and in my case that's a big deal."

Last season, Turner came off the bench behind Jodie Meeks for much of the year and averaged just 26.3 minutes per game. He shot 22.4-percent from three-point range. He did not appear in sync with demanding coach Doug Collins, and rumors of off-court issues persisted.

All that noise went away this offseason as Meeks was allowed to walk in free agency and swingman Andre Iguodala was shipped out of town in the Andrew Bynum trade. At long last, Turner had a defined role and guaranteed minutes even if his oft-wayward jumper wasn't falling.

Those assurances seem to have calmed Turner down. He's no longer forcing shots he knows aren't in his repertoire or trying to do too much off the dribble.

"It's funny now that in certain stretches of the game, it might be tied and I'm talking to him and he'll crack a joke," Collins said. "That's good. I like that. It's a growth process of a young player, and I'm proud of him."

By the numbers

7.2

Turner's 2010-11 stats:
7.2 points per game, 3.9 boards, 2.0 assists

Turner's 2011-12 stats:
9.4 points per game, 5.8 boards, 2.8 assists

Turner's 2012-13 stats:
14.1 points per game, 7.1 boards, 4.1 assists

ON TV TOMORROW

Sixers at Wolves, 7 p.m. (CSN)

Quoted

"I think the biggest thing is you have to pay your dues before you really break out. Sometimes you have to mess up before you start perfecting things."

TURNER

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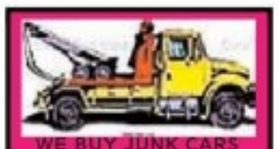
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